

ROUTE 18
 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS
**COMMUNITY
 PARTNERING TEAM**
 CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

PRE-STAGE 3 BRIEFING MEETING REPORT

PROJECT: ROUTE 18 - Section 2F, 7E, and 11H
 City of New Brunswick
 Middlesex County, New Jersey

DATE: August 30, 2006

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

PLACE: Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ

ATTENDEES

First Name	Last Name	Representing	Phone	Fax
Stakeholders				
Morteza	Ansari	Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. (KMM)	732-745-2326	732-745-7482
Renae	Bacon	New Brunswick Apartments	732-745-9200	
Richard	Bello	NJ State Police, Construction Unit		
Joe	Bernasz	University of Medicine & Dentistry of NJ	732-235-6212	
Mike	Bick	Riverside Towers	732-549-4942	
James	Campbell	City of New Brunswick - Parks Dept.	732-745-5112	
Mike	Cole	Hyatt Regency New Brunswick	732-867-2205	
Newton	Donald	Highlands Parks Police Dept.	732-572-3800	
John	Ferguson	Middlesex County, Office Emergency Mgmt	732-316-7104	732-727-8993
Wayne	Fiorino	Middlesex Co. Court House	732-981-2172	732-981-2178
Colleen	Flaherty	New Brunswick City Market	732-545-4849	
Tony	Gambilonghi	Middlesex County Planning Dept.	732-745-3843	
Lisa	Ginther	MBI-Glukshaw	609-392-3100	
Jennifer	Hollis	Rutgers University, Campus Info. Services	732-932-9342x2621	732-932-9359
Roger	Kuhlman	Johnson & Johnson	732-524-1607	732-524-3612
Jenn	Lane	Rutgers	732-445-2430x650	
Jack E.	Molenaar	Rutgers - Office of Univ. Planning & Dev.	732-932-6966	732-932-3442
Vince	Pomparelli	Johnson & Johnson	732-524-6320	732-524-2309
Mark	Rockaway	Bus Service Planning		
Lou	Sasso	Robert Wood Johnson Univ. Hospital	732-937-8728	732-418-8199
Charles	Scott	NJDEP, State Historic Preservation Office	609-633-2396	
Todd	Smircina	Carpender Road Neighborhood	732-545-5771	
Jim	Stapleton	Rutgers University, Campus Info. Services		
Lsndon	Turner		732-524-1466	
Jeanne	Valent	New Brunswick Resident	732-846-2571	
Mike	Wehrle	Johnson & Johnson	732-524-2365	
Greg	Williams	Univ. of Medicine & Dentistry of NJ	732-235-5225	



Steve	Zarecki	City of New Brunswick, Public Works	732-745-5104	
		Steering Committee		
Tony	Bene	NJDOT, Construction	732-729-7853	732-729-7856
Martine	Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485	856-795-8523
Brian K.	Dorf	Greenman – Pedersen, Inc.	732-729-7855	732-729-7856
Pamela	Garrett	NJDOT, Div. of Environmental Resources	609-530-2721	609-530-5306
Larry	Kolodziej	Middlesex County Engineering Dept.	732-745-3283	732-937-4585
Stephen	Lavelle	NJDOT, Division of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2546	609-530-5774
Thomas	Loughlin	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5007	732-435-0132
Lucy	Sanderson	NJDOT, Community Relations (for S. Mikulak)	609-530-	609-530-2536
Frank	Wong	Rutgers, - Physical and Capital Planning	732-445-2430x604	732-445-5094
		NJDOT Support Team		
Tim	Bourne	NJDOT, Traffic Ops North	201-797-3676	
David	Earl	NJDOT, Landscape and Urban Design	609-530-5547	609-530-5526
Glenn	Holzlohner	NJDOT, Maintenance	732-738-3202	
Amy	Polachak	NJDOT, Div. of Environmental Resources	609-530-5353	609-530-5306
Lee	Steiner	NJDOT, Work Zone Traffic Control Unit	732-409-3260	732-308-4101
Ed	Tomaszewski	NJDOT, Noise	609-530-2835	
		Consultant Team		
Brian	Dorr	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040	908-755-9849
Aaron	Tubbs	Conti Enterprises, Inc.	908-561-	908-757-9115
Lisa	Ginther	MBI-GluckShaw	609-392-3100	609-392-6347
Darryl	Johnson	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040	908-755-9849
Bill	Koeppe	Conti Enterprises, Inc.	908-561-8005 x241	908-757-9115
Jeff	Lanigan	MBI-GluckShaw	609-392-1080	609-392-3428
Paul	Matacera	MBI-GluckShaw	609-392-3100	609-392-6347
Gok	Mustafa	Conti Enterprises, Inc.	908-307-1516	
Glenn	Stevens	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040	908-755-9849
Mike	Prudente	Conti Enterprises, Inc.	908-561-8005	

PURPOSE OF MEETING

To prepare for Stage 3, the closing of the Commercial Avenue intersection and related construction activity; discuss the traffic detours; review communications and obtain input from CPT members on issues and recommendations. (Agenda attached).

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Martine Culbertson, CPT Facilitator, opened the meeting welcoming new members and thanking existing members for their active participation and support. After introductions, Martine reviewed the agenda. The purpose of today's meeting is to prepare for the closure of Commercial Avenue intersection and address any related issues.
2. Tony Bene, NJDOT Resident Engineer, asked Brian Dorf, Communications Team Leader, to provide an overview of the construction activity in the corridor over the past summer months. Images are available for viewing on the project web site: www.njcommuter.com and click Route 18 New Brunswick Reconstruction

3. Aaron Tubbs, Conti Enterprises Project Manager, presented the current construction activity and Stage 3 anticipated traffic movements.

- (a) New Street expected to open mid-October 2006 (vehicular traffic only)
- (b) Route 18 southbound access to Burnet Street will then close
- (c) Albany Street Stage A bridge work will begin
- (d) At Commercial Avenue, the Route 18 northbound left turn lanes will close
- (e) Work will begin on walls with other movements still open
- (f) Late 2006 Commercial Avenue will close completely for a duration of 33-48 days
- (g) Two lanes of traffic along Route 18 NB and SB will be maintained

4. Aaron Tubbs also provided information on other construction work on-going in the corridor:

- (a) installation of post and panel retaining walls is ongoing at Raritan Gardens (RW 15), Paulus Boulevard & RT18 NB (RW 1) and RT18 SB near Crest Road (RW 16) - present through September
- (b) installation of post and panel noise barriers is estimated for October in the area south of Carpenter Road (NB 3) and north of Carpenter Road (NB 4)
- (c) panel installation to begin November 2006
- (d) The truss for the pedestrian overpass is anticipated to be set in place in October.
- (e) The retaining wall at George Street and Douglass College (RW 4) is underway
- (f) The retaining wall at Route 18 SB between Commercial Avenue and George Street (RW 6) to begin fall 2006

5. A comment was made to install the panels for the residential neighborhoods as soon as possible. Tony Bene explained that the manufacturing of the custom panels is a slow process and with one manufacturer to ensure quality control it will take time. The contractor will place the panels as they are obtained from the manufacture over the following months.

6. Aaron concluded the construction activity overview for Stage 3 noting Conti's goal for this project. Their main objective is to "get out" earlier. They are always looking for ways to move faster, complete sections of construction sooner, and maximize access. For this reason Conti is keeping open as many roadways or ramps as possible until necessary to close and will open access as early as it is safe to do so.

7. Glenn Stevens, Gannett Fleming Traffic Engineer, presented information on the traffic detours. He described the Stage 3A detours associated with the Ramp B and Burnet Street closure and the State 3B detours associated with Commercial Avenue closure. Both maps will be posted on the project specific web site. Color copies of the detours are available upon request.

The following comments were noted during the discussion period:

7a. Traffic timing for George Street is to be analyzed by NJDOT Traffic Signals Dept. John McCleerey coordinating with Chris Barretts. John will follow-up with Rutgers and the City on the phasing. *ACTION ITEM*

7b. Request was made to improve the pedestrian crossing area at Huntington and Bishop by Rutgers. Larry will coordinate with the County engineer. Tony Bene noted that they have a crew doing some stripping that may be able to improve the crossing area sooner. Brian Dorf to coordinate with Rutgers and the field office on the location and improvements needed.

ACTION ITEM

7c. A comment was raised questioning the effect of the left turn restrictions on any of the detours with regard to George or Neilsen. Glenn responded that the detours were designed based upon logical traffic flow and prior to the left hand restrictions.

7d. A concern was raised on truck turning movements at New Street would be difficult with the turning radius, if not impossible and could cause traffic concerns. Glenn said they will monitor it and if necessary look to re-route trucks from that intersection. *ACTION ITEM*

7e. The effect of the detour routes and the closure of Commercial Avenue on bus stops was questioned. Rutgers noted that NJTRANSIT buses do stop in the Commercial Avenue area of Route 18 to drop off. Glenn will contact NJTRANSIT (Jim Wilno) and Academy Bus Co. (Greg Wright) to review the bus stop locations and detours for Stage 3. *ACTION ITEM*

8. Martine asked participants for any additional comments regarding the construction activity, special events, or other access concerns. The following comments were noted:

8a. RaNae Bacon, New Brunswick Apartments, explained that children are creating ramps with the construction materials and have lifted the plywood boards covering the holes to make bike or skate ramps. The holes are 30' deep but filled with sand for safety. Tony Bene and Conti will tour the area to see if it can be made more secure. Brian Dorf will assist in the coordination. *ACTION ITEM*

8b. Riverside Towers expressed concern for access in and out of their parking area. The new entrance width is narrow. Tony and Conti will meet with them to see if it can be improved. The additional parking area made for the building has other vehicles (construction related?) using that area. Tony will also address this issue. *ACTION ITEMS*

8c. Both New Brunswick Apartments and Riverside are concerned about directing clients or vendors to their buildings once Commercial Avenue is closed. Brian Dorf will meet with them to see if a directional map can be designed to assist both properties. Information can be posted to the project web site. *ACTION ITEM*

9. Other Comments/Feedback noted:

- Albany Street bridge work period estimated 6 months (2-4 months closure)
- Noise walls installation to begin next Tuesday through fall of 2006
- Pedestrian access and flow around New Brunswick Apartments during the construction of Commercial Avenue interchange
- Temporary circle is operating well, however vehicles travel through without yielding

- Signage and stripping work to be installed to assist at the circle
- Stage 2 at New Street has gone well and impressed to open sooner than anticipated
- Growing frustration of the neighborhoods south of George Street waiting for noise walls
- Please make it a priority to manufacture and install panels in the neighborhood areas

ACTION ITEM

10. In summary, Martine noted that a Steering Committee meeting will be held before year end to follow-up on the action items from the Pre-Stage Meeting. The next meeting time for a CPT pre-stage briefing would be in preparation of the Albany Street Bridge bicycle underpass work, which is not anticipated before spring 2007.

11. In closing, Martine thanked everyone for their input and continued participation on the CPT. Meeting minutes will be provided. *ACTION ITEM*

(a) There are highlighters which have the web site for information and the project email address to provide comments or questions.

(b) Brian Dorf is available at the NJDOT field office to assist in communication efforts and for brief presentations to constituents upon request.

(c) Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

Tom Loughlin (City of New Brunswick)

- Items No. 7a

Frank Wong / Jack Molenaar / Jennifer Lane (Rutgers)

- Items No. 7a, 7b

Larry Kolodziej/George Ververides (Middlesex County)

- Items No. 7a, 7b

John McCleerey / Steve Lavelle (Project Management)

- Items No. 7a

Tony Bene (Resident Engineer) / Aaron Tubbs (Conti Enterprises)

- Item No. 7a, 7b, 7d, 8a, 8b, 9

Glenn Stevens/ Brian Dorr / Darryl Johnson / (Gannett Fleming)

- Item No. 7a, 7b, 7d, 7e

Brian Dorf (Communications Team Leader)

- Item No. 7b, 8a, 8c

Martine Culbertson (CPT Facilitation)

- Items No. 8c, 10, 11

NEXT MEETING DATE

Route 18 CPT Pre-Stage Briefing

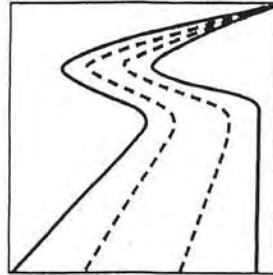
DATE Spring 2007

TIME 10:00 a.m. - Noon

LOCATION City of New Brunswick *(to be determined)*

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, we will consider these minutes to be record of fact.

Martine Culbertson
RT18 Facilitator



ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

PRE-STAGE 3 BRIEFING

Closing of Commercial Avenue Intersection,
Opening of New Street Interchange

AGENDA

Wednesday, August 30, 2006

Hyatt Hotel Conference Room, New Brunswick, NJ

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Objective: To prepare for Stage 3, the closing of the Commercial Avenue intersection and related construction activity; discuss the traffic detours; review communications and obtain input from CPT members on issues and recommendations.

- 10:00 a.m. I. Welcome and Introductions
- Agenda and Goals
 - Construction Activity & Communications
- 10:30 a.m. II. Stage 3 Details
- Project Status
 - *Opening of New Street, Closure of Commercial*
 - Contractor's Work Schedule
 - Traffic Detours
 - Issues and Recommendations
- 11:45 a.m. III. Summary and Close
- Action Items and Next Steps
 - Feedback / Closing Comments

